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26 JAN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Meeting of Alexis Johnson's Committee to
Consider Possible Disclosure of Satellite
Reconnaissance Information, 8 January 1964**

1. The first meeting of the new series of Alexis Johnson's Interdepartmental Committee on Space was held at 1430, 8 January 1964. This group had not met for approximately a year, during which time I had replaced Dr. Scoville as the CIA member. The group had been called back together at the request of ACDA and State to consider what role satellite photography would play in the forthcoming disarmament negotiations in Geneva. It was obviously a follow-up meeting to the weekend disarmament session several weeks before, in which Cline had represented the Agency. Cline and I were both present at this first meeting.

2. Mr. Johnson opened by stating that the efforts of this group in the past seemed to have paid off handsomely in terms of creating a climate in which satellite reconnaissance was privately accepted and seemed no longer to be an issue of public debate with the Soviets. He then suggested that we might consider sharing actual KEYHOLE material further with our Allies for two purposes:

a. to create higher confidence in our intelligence estimates among the NATO Allies;

b. provide a basis for confidence in the disarmament proposals advanced by the United States.

He indicated that the previous objective of the group had been pretty clear but that he was now prepared to consider a higher level of disclosure directed toward the disarmament objective.

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satellite system was discussed. This seemed to go essentially nowhere. The upshot of the whole meeting was the assignment of certain papers to the participants.

a. ACDA to examine their proposals and see what could be gained by further disclosure of our unilateral satellite capabilities.

b. DGD to clarify precisely the extent to which KEYHOLE information is released in a sanitized form as target locations and detailed maps to our Allies.

c. CIA/DDS&T to examine available information on foreign press accounts on U.S. satellite reconnaissance, to establish how far the cat is already out of the bag overseas.

d. State Department to examine both public and private statements by Soviet diplomatic and other officials on the subject of satellite reconnaissance.

The meeting broke up with a determination to meet the following week.

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